

REMARKS

Claims 39-55 were rejected as unpatentable over SAARINEN Des. 322,048 in view of WILLIAMES 6,237,286; and claims 56-58 were rejected as unpatentable over SAARINEN in view of BLOCH 4,991,345. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The amended claims define a bulb tray that has plural accommodations where each of the accommodations is delimited by peripheral boundary walls and where between adjacent ones of the accommodations a common one of the peripheral boundary walls is shared over a full height of the accommodations from a top to a bottom thereof. None of the applied references discloses such a common peripheral boundary wall and thus the amended claims avoid the rejections of record.

The Official Action relies on WILLIAMES for the suggestion to modify SAARINEN to include a "common" peripheral boundary wall. However, the boundary wall 14 that extends the full height of the cells in WILLIAMES surrounds the group of cells and is not between adjacent ones of the peripheral walls.

As is apparent from Figures 1-2 of the present application, adjacent ones of the accommodations each share a common one of the peripheral boundary walls therebetween over a full height of the accommodations from a top to a bottom thereof. Using a common wall over the full height of the accommodations

permits the use of relatively thicker material and thus permits the positioning members that clamp the bulb to transfer forces to the walls with less risk of bulging.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest that adjacent ones of the accommodations each share a common one of the peripheral boundary walls therebetween over a full height of the accommodations from a top to a bottom thereof, as is apparent from Figures 1 and 2 of SAARINEN and Figure 4 of WILLIAMES. The walls in these references are connected at the top but are separated at the bottom. Since the trays in the references do not have shared common walls between adjacent accommodations from a top to a bottom of the accommodations, the trays in the references are not as strong as in the invention of the amended claims.

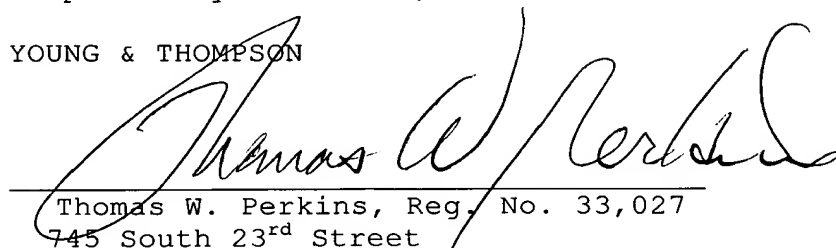
Since the shared common wall in the amended claims is not disclosed in the applied references, this feature would not be obvious to one of skill in the art and withdrawal of the rejection under §103 is appropriate.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been

placed in condition for allowance.. Reconsideration and allowance  
are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lk